

Aug 1820

John Miller, M.D.

# CONSTITUTION

OF THE

# MEDICAL SOCIETY

OF THE

# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA;

TO WHICH IS PREFIXED THE

# ACT OF INCORPORATION.

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## ACT OF INCORPORATION.

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AN ACT to incorporate the Medical Society of the District of Columbia.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That Charles Worthington, James H. Blake, John T. Shaaff, Thomas Sim, Frederick May, Joel T. Gustine, Elisha Harrison, Peregrine Warfield, Alexander M'Williams, George Clark, Henry Huntt, Thomas Henderson, John Harrison, Benjamin S. Bohrer, Samuel Horseley, Nicholas W. Worthington, William Jones, James T. Johnson, Richard Weightman, George May, Robert French, and such persons as they may, from time to time elect, and their successors, are hereby declared to be a community, corporation, and body politic, forever, by and under the name and title of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia; and by and under the same name and title they shall be able and capable in law to purchase, take, have, and enjoy, to them and their successors, in fee or for lease, estate or estates, any land, tenements, rents, annuities, chattels, bank stock, registered debts, or other public securities within the district, by the gift, bargain, sale, demise, ~~or~~ of any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, capable to make the same, and the same, at their pleasure, to alien, sell, transfer, or lease and apply, to such purposes as they may adjudge most conducive to the (promoting and disseminating medical and surgical knowledge,) and for no other purpose whatever: Provided, nevertheless, That the said society, or body politic, shall not, at any one time, hold or possess property, real personal, or mixt, exceeding in total value the sum of six thousand dollars per annum.*

*Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the members of the said society, above designated, shall hold, in the city of Washington, four stated meetings in every year, viz. on the first Mondays in January, April, July, and October; the officers of the society to consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, one Correspond-*

ing Secretary, one Recording Secretary, one Treasurer, and one Librarian, who shall be appointed on the second Monday in March, one thousand eight hundred and nineteen, and on the annual meeting in January for ever thereafter, (not less than seven members being present at such meeting) : and the society may make a common seal, and may elect into their body such medical and chirurgical practitioners, within the district of Columbia, as they may deem qualified to become members of the society : it being understood that the officers of the society now elected are to remain in office until the next election after the passage of this act.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall and may be lawful for the said Medical Society, or any number of them attending, (not less than seven,) to elect by ballot five persons, residents of the District, who shall be stiled the Medical Board of Examiners of the District of Columbia, whose duty it shall be to grant licenses to such medical and chirurgical gentlemen as they may, upon a full examination, judge adequate to commence the practice of the medical and chirurgical arts, or as may produce diplomas from some respectable college or society ; each person so obtaining a certificate to pay a sum not exceeding ten dollars, to be fixed on or ascertained by the society. )

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That any three of the examiners shall constitute a board for examining such candidates as may apply, and shall subscribe their names to each certificate by them granted, which certificate shall also be countersigned by the President of the society, and have the seal of the society affixed thereto by the Secretary, upon paying into the hands of the Treasurer, the sum of money to be ascertained, as above, by the society ; and any one of the said examiners may grant a license to practice, until a board, in conformity to this act, can be held : *Provided,* That nothing herein contained shall authorize the said corporation in any wise to regulate the price of medical or chirurgical attendance, on such persons as may need those services.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That after the appointment of the aforesaid medical board, no person, not heretofore a practitioner of medicine or surgery within the District of Columbia, shall be allowed to practice within the said District, in either of

said branches, and receive payment for his services, without first having obtained a license, testified as by this law directed, or without the production of a diploma, under the penalty of fifty dollars for each offence, to be recovered in the county court where he may reside, by bill of presentment and indictment; one half for the use of the society, and the other for that of the informer.

*Sec. 6. And be it further enacted,* That every person who, upon application, shall be elected a member of the Medical Society, shall pay a sum not exceeding ten dollars, to be ascertained by the society.

*Sec. 7. And be it further enacted,* That the Medical Society be, and they are hereby empowered, from time to time, to make such bye-laws, rules, and regulations, as they may find requisite, to break or alter their common seal, to fix the times and places for the meetings of the board of examiners, filling up vacancies in the medical board, and to do and perform such other things as may be requisite for carrying this act into execution, and which may not be repugnant to the constitution and laws of the United States: *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall extend, to prohibit any person, during his actual residence in any of the United States, and who, by the laws of the state wherein he doth or may reside, is not prohibited from practising in either of the above branches, from practising in this District: *Provided always*, That it shall and may be lawful for any person, resident as aforesaid, and not prohibited as aforesaid, when specially sent for, to come into any part of this district, and administer or prescribe medicine, or perform any operation for the relief of such to whose assistance he may be sent for.

*Sec. 8. And be it further enacted,* That Congress may, at any time, alter, amend, or annul this act of incorporation of said society at pleasure.

H. CLAY,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

DANIEL D. TOMPKINS,

*Vice-President of the United States, and President of the Senate.*

FEBRUARY 16, 1819—APPROVED,

JAMES MONROE.



# CONSTITUTION.

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## ARTICLE I.

This Society shall be called the Medical Society of the District of Columbia.

## ARTICLE II.

The object of this Society shall be, the consideration and promotion of all subjects connected with medicine, and the collateral branches of the science.

## ARTICLE III.

Sec. 1. The meetings of this society shall be held quarterly, in the city of Washington; viz. on the first Mondays in January, April, July and October; and on its own adjournments.

Sec. 2. Special meetings shall be called by the President, or one of the Vice-Presidents, on application being made in writing by three of the members.

## ARTICLE IV.

Sec. 1. There shall be the following officers of this Society; viz. one President, two Vice-Presidents, one Corresponding Secretary, one Recording Secretary, one Treasurer, and one Librarian.

Sec. 2. The officers of the Medical Society shall be chosen from the resident members, and be elected by ballot by a majority of the members present, at the stated meetings in January in every year.

## ARTICLE V.

Sec. The Society shall consist of Honorary and Resident members, and Fellows.

**SEC. 2.** Any person, not residing in the District of Columbia, who has obtained a degree in medicine, or is eminent in the practice of physic, or any of the branches thereof, may be proposed as an Honorary member. He shall be proposed by two members, at one stated meeting, ballotted for at the next, and a majority of two-thirds of the members present shall be required for his admission.

**SEC. 3.** Resident members shall consist of medical gentlemen residing in the District of Columbia; and for their admission, it shall be necessary that they shall have received a diploma from some University, or shall be considered respectable in the practice of medicine. They shall be proposed by two members, at least one stated meeting previous to being ballotted for; and it shall then require the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present for their admission.

**SEC. 4.** In all propositions for the admission of Honorary or Resident members, the names of the proposers shall be annexed to that of the candidate on the minutes.

**SEC. 5.** All those who have been Resident members for the space of two years, shall be considered as Fellows of the Medical Society; and every Honorary member who shall make a communication, on any subject connected with medicine or the collateral branches of medical science, which communication being received and approved by the Society, may be elected a Fellow.

## ARTICLE VI.

If any member be desirous of leaving the society he shall signify it in a written communication; which being read, shall lie over till the ensuing meeting; when with the consent of the society, his resignation shall be accepted; but he shall not be permitted to resign until he have discharged the arrears due from him to the Society.

## ARTICLE VII.

Members of the Society may prepare dissertations on subjects connected with medicine; or report in writing important cases in surgery or the practice of physic, which shall be directed

to the President, who shall submit them to the Society for perusal. When permitted, the author, if present, shall read his own communication; otherwise it shall be read by the Secretary, and it shall then be optional with the society to enter into a general discussion of its merits.

#### ARTICLE VIII.

SEC. 3. All propositions for altering the constitution shall lie over at least one stated meeting, previous to being acted on: and shall then require the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present for their adoption.

## BYE-LAWS.

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### 1. OF THE PRESIDENT.

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society, to preserve order and decorum; and may fine any member acting disorderly, in a sum not exceeding ten dollars; from whose decision, the member incurring the fine, may appeal to the Society.

### 2. OF THE VICE-PRESIDENTS.

In the absence of the President, his duty shall devolve on the Vice-Presidents, so that they shall preside alternately at such meetings of the Society. And if neither the President nor a Vice-President be present, a chairman shall be chosen from the members attending, who shall for that meeting exercise all the privileges and duties of the President.

### 3. OF THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

It shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secretary, to manage all matters of correspondence, in behalf of the Society; to give notice to members and officers of their election; to write and answer letters; and respectfully to solicit from medical Societies, faculties and individuals, information calculated to benefit the science of medicine: all which correspondence he shall lay before the Society, at the next succeeding stated meeting.

### 4. OF THE RECORDING SECRETARY.

The Recording Secretary shall attend each meeting of the Society; call over the names of the members, and take down the minutes, which he shall read at the next meeting; and which, when corrected, he shall copy into a book, kept for that purpose, and to which entry he shall sign his name. He shall also insert the reports of committees at full length: he shall read all let-

ters and papers relating to the business of the Society, which do not particularly belong to the department of the Corresponding Secretary ; and transcribe into a proper book, such of them as the Society may think worthy to be preserved. He shall deliver to the Treasurer a correct statement of the fines incurred at each meeting. If he should be unable to attend a meeting of the Society, he shall give due notice of it, by transmitting all the papers required at the meeting.

### 5. OF THE TREASURER.

The Treasurer shall collect all monies due to the Society, receive all donations of money which shall be made to the Society, and shall pay the same agreeably to order certified to him by the President, Vice-President, or member who was in the chair, when such order was made. He shall keep a regular account of all monies received and paid by him as aforesaid ; and once every year, or oftener, if required by the Society, shall render a statement of the funds in his hands, and of the disbursements : and shall deliver up to his successor, the books and all papers belonging to the Society, together with the balance of cash : and for the faithful discharge of his trust, shall give satisfactory security to the President, within one month after being appointed.

### 6. OF THE LIBRARIAN.

The Librarian shall take charge of, and preserve for the use of the Society, all property of whatever kind it may be, money excepted, of which the Society may become possessed ; and keep a correct list of the same ; together with the respective names of the donors, in a book provided for that purpose ; which book shall be laid before the society as often as called for. The Librarian shall give such a receipt for every thing committed to his care or charge, as the Society may direct ; and at the end of his term, shall deliver up the same to his successor.

### 7. OF COMMITTEES.

The mode of appointing committees shall be as follows, viz : The President shall appoint one gentleman, who shall be considered as Chairman of the committee ; he shall name the second,

and so on, until the number agreed on shall be completed. But if the business be of an extraordinary or important nature, any member may move that the committee be chosen by ballot; which shall accordingly be done. The Chairman of every committee shall appoint a time for its meeting, before he leaves the Society.

### 8. OF MOTIONS.

Any member may make whatever motion he thinks will tend to the benefit of the Society; his proposal or motion must be given to the President in writing; and it shall be immediately voted or ballotted for, unless a majority of the members present wish it to lie over, for consideration. In either case it shall be recorded on the minutes of the Society.

### 9. OF THE ORDER OF DEBATE.

No member shall interrupt the President, or any other member while speaking; every member shall stand while speaking, and address himself to the President.

### 10. OF DECORUM.

No member or members shall be permitted to sit or stand with his or their heads covered.

### 11. OF ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS.

No member shall be permitted to retire after calling his name, without permission from the President, until the Society have adjourned.

### 12. OF A QUORUM.

At each meeting of the Society, any number not less than seven, shall constitute a quorum.

### 13. OF VISITORS.

Medical men, or men learned in the collateral branches of the science, on a visit to the District of Columbia, not members of this Society, may be permitted to attend meetings, on being introduced by a member of the Society.

#### 14. ROUTINE OF BUSINESS.

At each meeting of the Society, as soon as the President takes the chair, and the meeting is constituted, the following shall be the order of proceeding:

- 1st. The roll shall be called.
- 2d. The minutes shall be read.
- 3d. The election of candidates for membership.
- 4th. Nomination of candidates for membership.
- 5th. Report of Treasurer.
- 6th. Reports of Committees.
- 7th. Reports of the Corresponding Secretary.
- 8th. Medical papers and essays, read or presented for consideration.

#### 15. OF ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

Each Resident member shall pay annually to the Treasurer the sum of three dollars for the use of the Society; which funds in the first place, shall be appropriated to defray the current expenses of the Society; and the surplus shall be expended in purchasing medical books, under the direction of a committee appointed for the special purpose.

#### *Officers of the Medical Society.*

*Charles Worthington, President,  
William Thornton, } Vice-Presidents,  
Frederick May, }  
Henry Huntt, Corresponding Secretary,  
Nathaniel P. Causin, Recording Secretary,  
N. W. Worthington, Librarian,  
William Jones, Treasurer.*

#### *Board of Examiners.*

<i>Peregrine Warfield,</i>	<i>Nathaniel P. Causin,</i>
<i>Thomas Sim,</i>	<i>George Clarke.</i>
<i>Edward Cutbush,</i>	

#### *Censors.*

<i>G. W. May,</i>	<i>N. W. Worthington.</i>
<i>G. J. Brown, Alexandria,</i>	

*Resident Members.*

<i>Charles Worthington, M. B.</i>	<i>James T. Johnson, M. D.</i>
<i>J. T. Shaaf, M. D.</i>	<i>Henry Hunt, L. M. C. F.</i>
<i>Joel Trumbull Gustine,</i>	<i>Benjamin S. Bohrer, M. D.</i>
<i>Elisha Harrison,</i>	<i>Thomas Sim, M. B.</i>
<i>James H. Blake,</i>	<i>Arnold Elzey,</i>
<i>George Clarke, M. D.</i>	<i>William Thornton, M. D.</i>
<i>Peregrine Warfield, L. M. C. F.</i>	<i>George W. May, M. D.</i>
<i>Alexander M'Williams,</i>	<i>Frederick May, M.D.</i>
<i>Thomas Henderson, M. D.</i>	<i>Nath. P. Causin, L. M. C. F. M.</i>
<i>John Harrison,</i>	<i>Gustavus A. Brown, M. D.</i>
<i>Samuel Horseley,</i>	<i>Edward Cutbush, M. D.</i>
<i>Richard Weightman, M. D.</i>	<i>C. B. Hamilton,</i>
<i>William Jones, L. M. C. F.</i>	<i>B. Washington, M. D.</i>
<i>N. W. Worthington, M. D.</i>	<i>Thomas Sewall, M. D.</i>

*Honorary Members.*

<i>Samuel L. Mitchell, M. D. New York,</i>
<i>John Speuce, Virginia,</i>
<i>William Beanes, M. D. Maryland,</i>
<i>Joseph Parrish, M. D. Philadelphia,</i>
<i>James Mann, M. D. Boston,</i>
<i>Joan Heun Chaufepie, M. D. Hamburg,</i>
<i>Nathaniel Chapman, M. D. Philadelphia,</i>
<i>John M'Clelland, M. D. Pennsylvania,</i>
<i>Joshua Fisher, (President of the Medical Society,) Mass..</i>

Rules and regulations, for the purpose of establishing etiquette, and professional intercourse among the members of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia.

Any member of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia, who may violate any of the following rules and regulations, and upon conviction thereof, before the said Society, shall, for the first offence, be fined a sum not exceeding twenty dollars ; for the second offence, he shall be *expelled*, and his expulsion shall be published in one or more news-papers in this District ; and no member of said society shall consult with, or voluntarily meet in a professional way, or aid, or abet, any practitioner of medicine who may have suffered the penalty of expulsion.

#### ARTICLE I.

If a physician be called to any member of a *family* in the absence of the family physician, on the arrival of the latter, the patient shall be resigned by the former.

#### ARTICLE II.

When a physician engaged to attend a case of midwifery, is absent, and a second delivers the woman, the latter shall receive the fee, and relinquish the patient to the first on his arrival. If the first arrive while the second is present, and before the woman be delivered, the second shall retire, and resign the patient to the first.

#### ARTICLE III.

No physician shall directly or indirectly interfere in the practice of a brother physician or surgeon ; or give opinion in any manner concerning a case knowing him to be in attendance, unless it be during his absence and in cases of emergency.

#### ARTICLE IV.

In consultations, it shall be the duty of the consulting physician, to enter the sick room and investigate the case in *company* with the attending physician, and shall leave the room immediate-

ly after having obtained such information as may be required to decide on the case. All directions agreed upon shall be left to the charge of the attending physician. No statements or discussion of the case shall take place in the *presence of the patient or his friends*; and no opinions at variance with the plan agreed upon shall ever be promulgated. Punctuality shall always be observed in the visits, and no visits shall be made by the *consulting physician*, but in concert, or by mutual consent; except in cases of emergency when the attending physician cannot be readily procured.

#### ARTICLE V.

No member of the Society shall publicly advertise for sale, any medicine, the composition of which he keeps a secret; or shall offer either publicly, or through his friends, to cure diseases by any such secret medicine, or otherwise.

#### ARTICLE VI.

No member of this Society shall either *casually* or *formally*, prescribe for, or visit *professionally* any case *gratuitously*, when the circumstances of the patient will justify a charge; except in cases of practicing physicians, or their families, and regular ministers of the Gospel of every denomination.

#### ARTICLE VII.

No member of this Society shall make any previous contract with any person or family for a definite sum, as a remuneration for his annual attendance on said person or family.



